

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Original) A gas meter and valve installation comprising:

gas supply plumbing for supplying gas to a point of use;

point of use plumbing for receiving gas from said gas supply plumbing;

a gas meter having a gas inlet connected to said gas supply plumbing and a gas outlet connected to said point of use plumbing for metering the quantity of gas used at said point of use such that a gas supply passage is established through said gas supply plumbing, said gas meter and said point of use plumbing; and

a gas flow shutoff valve positioned along said gas supply passage outside of said gas meter comprising a valve member movable between an open position in which said gas supply passage is open, allowing gas to flow through said gas meter and into said point of use plumbing, and a closed position in which said gas supply passage is substantially closed so that substantially no gas is allowed to flow into said point of use plumbing.

Claim 2 (Original) The gas meter and valve installation of claim 1, wherein:

said gas flow shutoff valve comprises a housing having a valve gas inlet and a valve gas outlet, one of said valve gas inlet and said valve gas outlet being connected to said gas meter and the other of said valve gas inlet and said valve gas outlet being connected to one of said gas supply plumbing and said point of use plumbing; and

a spacer having a spacer inlet and a spacer outlet is connected between the other of said gas supply plumbing and said point of use plumbing.

Claim 3 (Original) The gas meter and valve installation of claim 1, wherein said point of use plumbing comprises a service tee having an inlet, an outlet and a service opening having a plug therein.

Claim 4 (Original) The gas meter and valve installation of claim 1, wherein said gas inlet and said gas outlet comprise male inlet and outlet threads, one of said point of use plumbing and said gas

supply plumbing comprising a union nut for connection with one of said male inlet and said male outlet threads, and said gas flow shutoff valve being connected between the other of said point of use plumbing and said gas supply plumbing and the other of said male inlet and said male outlet threads, said gas flow shutoff valve comprising a nut thereon for connection with the other of said male inlet and said male outlet threads and a total height that is equal to the height of said union nut.

Claim 5 (Original) A method of installing a gas meter with a shut-off valve with gas supply plumbing for supplying gas to a point of use and point of use plumbing for receiving gas from the gas supply plumbing, comprising:

connecting a gas inlet of a gas meter to the gas supply plumbing;

connecting a gas outlet of the gas meter to the point of use plumbing, whereby the gas meter can meter the quantity of gas used at the point of use, such that a gas supply passage is established through the gas supply plumbing, the gas meter and the point of use plumbing; and

positioning a gas flow shutoff valve along the gas supply passage outside of the gas meter, the meter comprising a valve member movable between an open position in which the gas supply passage is open, allowing gas to flow through the gas meter and into the point of use plumbing, and a closed position in which the gas supply passage is substantially closed so that substantially no gas is allowed to flow into the point of use plumbing.

Claim 6 (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein:

the gas flow shutoff valve comprises a housing having a valve gas inlet and a valve gas outlet, one of said valve gas inlet and said valve gas outlet being connected to said gas meter and the other of said valve gas inlet and said valve gas outlet being connected to one of said gas supply plumbing and said point of use plumbing; and

a spacer having a spacer inlet and a spacer outlet is connected between the other of the gas supply plumbing and the point of use plumbing.

Claim 7 (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the point of use plumbing comprises a service tee having an inlet, an outlet and a service opening having a plug therein.

Claim 8 (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the gas inlet and the gas outlet comprise male inlet and outlet threads, one of the point of use plumbing and the gas supply plumbing comprising a union nut for connection with one of the male inlet and the male outlet threads, and the gas flow shutoff valve being connected between the other of the point of use plumbing and the gas supply plumbing and the other of the male inlet and the male outlet threads, the gas flow shutoff valve comprising a nut thereon for connection with the other of the male inlet and the male outlet threads and a total height that is equal to the height of the union nut.

Claims 9-86 (Canceled)